status of the on-going works under the Golden Quadrilateral Project on National Highway No. 4 in the State of Karnataka is as under:

Sl. No.	Contract/Stretch	Length (Km.)	Physical progress (%) as on July, 2005	Likely date of Completion
1.	Tumkur Bypass (Km 62 to Km 75)	13.00	67.50	December, 2005
2.	Sira-Chitradurga Section (km 122.3 to km 189)	66.70	73.16	December, 2005
3.	Chitradurga Bypass (km 189 to km 207)	18.00	49.75	June, 2006
4.	Chitradurga-Harihar Section (km 207 to km 284)	77.00	48.80	June, 2006
5.	Harihar-Haveri Section (km. 284 to km 340)	56.00	45.06	June, 2006
6.	Harveri-Hubli Section (km 340 to km 404)	64.00	43.30	June, 2006
7.	Dharwad-Belgaum Section (km 433 to 495)	62.00	68.11	December, 2005
8.	Belgaum Bypass Section (km. 495 to km. 515)	20.00	90.33	October, 2005

(b) The whole work is likely to be completed by June, 2006.

Approval for cruise services

3242. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given approval for operating cruise services on two sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had received proposals to operate cruise services in many other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cruise Operator M/s. Ocean Cruises India Private Limited has been permitted to operate cruises from Goa to Lakshadweep *via* Cochin. Similarly Cruise Operator M/s. Star Cruises Limited has been permitted to operate cruises from Mumbai to Lakshadweep (Kadmat Island) and Mumbai to Goa.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Productivity of major ports

3243. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the productivity of major Indian ports is very low as compared to ports in developed nations;

(b) whether Government have planned any long-term modernization programme to upgrade ports;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government with regard to enhancing the standards of major ports with the International Standards?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no validated system of benchmarking and/or universally accepted set of parameters on the basis of which the performance of various ports could be collated for arriving at definitive conclusions on relative performance. However, the efficiency parameters like Average out put per ship berth day, Average turn round time for major ports in India have been consistently improving over the years.

(b) to (d) Modernisation and development of the major ports in India is an on-going process keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. An outlay of Rs.4531.29 crores has been provided under the Tenth Plan for development of the major ports. In addition, private sector investment to the tune of Rs.11257 crore is also envisaged for development of major ports during the Tenth Plan period. The scheme for development of the major ports include deepening of channels to facilitate berthing of large size vessels, construction of new berths, upgradation/expansion of existing